

**From:** Daniel Cloud  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/18/02 6:40pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

So far in the settlement proceedings, Microsoft has been dealt with very lightly. Talks of splitting the company up seemed very reasonable, especially given the fact that in the past companies have forced to sell certain software assets in order to limit a monopoly in certain software categories. Large companies have been treated in this way in the past. It should be no different with Microsoft. The Operating System, the web browser, the Office suite, etc. are separately salable products. What Microsoft has done, and the court already agreed that this is monopolistic and illegal, is first create an operating system monopoly and use that monopoly to build monopolies in other types of software such as web browsing and productivity applications (MS Office). It seems then that the only way to truly break up the monopoly would be to separate the software applications by selling the code to other companies. The profit from selling the rights to the software should go into a fund for schools to buy computers and software of their choice. Given the clearness of Microsoft's monopoly practices that have been built upon years of unfair and anti-competitive business deals, it is imperative that the company be reshaped so that it doesn't resemble what it is today. This would also be good for Microsoft and the people who actually want their products because by narrowing Microsoft's reach, it will bring focus to building the fewer products better. When the software applications are split amongst other companies, development of competition will occur and the companies that bought Microsoft application code will be forced to make a better product to compete, and the consumer will benefit.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you on this subject and hope that in making a final decision, you realize that allowing the guilty defendant to decide its own sentence would be unfair, inadequate, and most of all, unjust.

Thank you.

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Daniel Cloud  
(910) 794-3089 Home  
(910) 350-9918 Pager

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